What the pros are saying...

“It was most gratifying for me to become affiliated with the Mayborn Institute, which sponsors and promotes the discussion and application of nonfiction only on the highest standards. And I thus pledge my continuing support to the growth and success of the Mayborn Institute’s program.”

–Gay Talese, author, A Writer’s Life

“It’s no accident that the Mayborn Conference has very quickly risen to preeminence among the nation’s literary conferences. Stacked with talent, smartly choreographed, and well-attended by enthusiastic confereres whose passion for nonfiction is palpable, the Mayborn offers a distinctive format no other conference can match.”

–Hampton Sides, author, Ghost Soldiers and Blood and Thunder

“James Agee would have felt at home at the Mayborn Literary Nonfiction Writers Conference. Higher praise, I cannot imagine. In a universe of mass-media in which reportage is routinely corrupted by political intimidation and marketing formula, and in which writers conferences generally marginalize “nonfiction” as personal memoir, “inspirational” or some similar market-driven genre, Mayborn stands preeminent. It illuminates the highest and most aesthetically satisfying of nonfiction’s mandates: to boldly examine what Agee called “the cruel radiance of what is” on behalf of a common reader. Mayborn, with its persona of moral passion coupled with writerly inspiration, is on its way to becoming a national resource.”

–Ron Powers, author, Flags of our Fathers and Mark Twain

“This is just plain the best nonfiction writing conference I’ve ever been to. It’s small enough and friendly enough that everyone gets to spend face time with whomever they want to, and it’s big enough that all the subgenres are covered: memoir, crime, sports, science. Mayborn rules!”

–Mary Roach, columnist, Reader’s Digest, and author, Spook and Stiff

“What Wimbledon is to the world of tennis, the Mayborn Writers Conference is to the world of narrative nonfiction.”

–Erik Calonius, author, The Wanderer

“For my money, your conference has become the go-to affair for the serious-minded nonfiction writer.”

–Carlton Stowers, Author of To The Last Breath and Careless Whispers

“I liked this conference better than Neiman on many levels. I liked the fact that there was one speaker at a time—that everyone had the same shared experience. And I liked the fact that there were 300 people, not over a thousand.”

–Sonia Nazario, Los Angeles Times staff writer and author, Enrique’s Journey

“The Mayborn Conference is without peer in the country as a gathering place for serious nonfiction writers aiming to practice their craft at the highest possible level. Any writers conference that devoted itself to literary nonfiction would be unique, but with its sheer star power and concentration of first-class talent, Mayborn sets the bar hopelessly high for any would-be competitor.”

–Jim Hornfischer, literary agent and author, The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors and Ship of Ghosts

“The Mayborn Conference is unlike any other event, and with each passing year it will build on itself as more and more accomplished writers and journalists experience it firsthand, and as more and more aspiring narrative writers attend and spread the word.”

–Robert Rivard, author, Trail of Feathers: Searching for Phillip True, and editor, San Antonio Express-News